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FULFILMENT OF THE STATE PLAN FOR 1949

Russia. Tsentralnoe statisticheskoe upravlenie.

Communique of the Central Statistical Administration of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers

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Articles :

"New Times" Editorial : Two Worlds—Two Lines of Economic Development.

Nikolai Virta : Soviet People—Master Builders of the New Society.

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FULFILMENT OF THE U.S.S.R. STATE PLAN FOR 1949

Communique of the Central Statistical Administration of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers

THE development of industry, agriculture and transport, of capital construction, the development of trade-turnover and improvement in the material and cultural living standards of the people in 1949, are characterised by the following data:

1. Fulfilment of the Industrial Production Plan

THE 1949 production plan for gross output was fulfilled by the various Ministries as follows (percentage fulfilment of the annual plan for 1949):

	per cent.
Ministry of the Metallurgical Industry	**102**
Ministry of the Coal Industry	**102**
Ministry of the Oil Industry	**103**
Ministry of Electric Power Stations	**101**
Ministry of the Chemical Industry	**104**
Ministry of the Electrical Industry	**105**
Ministry of the Communications Equipment Industry	**103**
Ministry of Heavy Engineering	**106**
Ministry of the Automobile and Tractor Industry	**103**
Ministry of the Machine-tool Industry	**106**
Ministry of the Machine and Instrument-making Industry	**103**
Ministry of Building and Road Building Machinery	**103**
Ministry of the Transport Machinery Industry	**102**
Ministry of the Agricultural Machinery Industry	**100**
Ministry of the Building Materials Industry of the U.S.S.R.	**104**
Ministry of the Timber and Paper Industry of the U.S.S.R.	**100**
Ministry of the Light Industry of the U.S.S.R.	**108**
Ministry of the Fishing Industry of the U.S.S.R.	**95**
Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry of the U.S.S.R.	**105**
Ministry of the Food Industry of the U.S.S.R.	**104**
Ministries of Local Industry and Local Fuel Industry of the Union Republics	**107**
Industrial Co-operatives	**106**

In the course of the past year a number of measures were carried out by the Government to improve further the work of industry. As a result of this the level of utilisation of productive capacity in industry increased, and savings effected in the consumption of raw materials, fuel and other materials, and additional internal reserves of the enterprises were brought to light. This made it possible for the Government during the year to increase the plan for industrial production originally laid down for 1949. The increased plan for the year was fulfilled 103 per cent. for industry as a whole.

In 1949 a considerable quantity of industrial output was produced in excess of plan; including ferrous and non-ferrous metals, piping, coal, oil, petrol, kerosene, electric power, electric motors, transformers, electric lamps, metal-cutting lathes, automobiles, buses, trolley-buses, motor-cycles, ball-bearings, automatic cranes, mineral fertilisers, dyes and other silicates, rubber, motor tyres, cement, window glass, soft roofing, sewing machines, cameras, cotton, linen, woollen and silk textiles, hosiery, rubber footwear, meat, vegetable oils, sugar, confectionery, tinned foods, tea, cigarettes, alcohol, champagne and many other industrial products.

While the year's plan as regards gross output and output of the majority of the principal industrial products was fulfilled, some of the Ministries did not fulfil their plan in respect of individual items.

2. Growth of Industrial Output

PRODUCTION of the most important items of industrial output registered the following changes in 1949 as compared with 1948 (1949 production in percentages of 1948):

	per cent.
Pig iron	**119**
Steel	**125**
Rolled metal	**127**
Rails	**180**
Iron pipes	**131**
Copper	**120**
Zinc	**124**
Lead	**126**
Coal	**113**
Oil	**114**
Petrol	**110**
Kerosene	**117**
Diesel fuels	**132**

	per cent.
Natural gas	103
Electric power	118
Main-line locomotives	115
Main-line electric railway locomotives	216
Main-line goods wagons	147
Trolley-buses	126
Lorries	130
Motor cars	226
Omnibuses	117
Ball-bearings	128
Metallurgical equipment	127
Excavators	150
Steam-turbines	172
Self-propelled auto-cranes	200
Automatic loaders	6.6 fold
Electro-motors up to 100 kw.	134
Electro-motors over 100 kw.	137
Metal-cutting machine tools (Ministry of Machine-tool industry)	119
Spinning machinery	136
Weaving looms	173
Calculating machines	179
Tractors	155
Grain combines	201
Tractor-drawn ploughs	155
Tractor-drawn seeders	156
Tractor-drawn cultivators	142
Complex threshing machines	159
Caustic soda	127
Calcinated soda	131
Mineral fertilisers	131
Synthetic dyes	112
Synthetic rubber	136
Motor-tyres	139
Haulage of marketable timber	115
Paper	127
Cement	126
Window-glass	119
Slate	137
Roofing felt	123
Bricks	132
Prefabricated houses	154
Bicycles	144
Wireless receiving sets	165
Gramophones	163
Sewing machines	134
Clocks and watches	194
Cameras	106
Cotton textiles	114
Linen textiles	122
Woollen textiles	119
Silk textiles	128

	per cent.
Leather footwear	122
Rubber footwear	128
Hosiery	132
Meat	106
Varieties of sausage	143
Fish	122
Butter	106
Vegetable oils	132
Sugar	123
Confectionery	127
Tinned foods	135
Tea	121
Soap	170
Spirits	125
Cigarettes	117
Grape wines	128
Champagne	272
Beer	139

Gross output for the entire industry of the U.S.S.R. increased in 1949 in comparison with 1948 by 20 per cent. and exceeded the level of the pre-war year of 1940 by 41 per cent.

Towards the end of 1949 the output of gross industrial production exceeded the level set by the Five-Year Plan for 1950. The Five-Year Plan provides for the volume of output for the entire industry of the U.S.S.R. in 1950 exceeding by 48 per cent. the output of the pre-war year of 1940. In the fourth quarter of 1949 the average monthly output of gross industrial production exceeded the 1940 level by 53 per cent.

In the fourth quarter of 1949 the level set by the Five-Year Plan for 1950 was surpassed in the production of rolled metal, in the output of coal by the Ministry of the Coal Industry, in the output of oil and in the output of a number of other important industrial products.

The State plan for supplies in 1949 was fulfilled. The national economy received in the past year considerably more raw materials, other materials, fuel, electric power and equipment than in 1948.

In 1949 the further improvement in the utilisation of equipment in industry was continued. The average progressive norms of utilisation of equipment set by the State plan for 1949 in many branches of industry were fulfilled and exceeded.

At enterprises of the Ministry of the Metallurgical Industry the utilisation of the effective volume of blast furnaces increased in comparison with 1948 by 6 per cent., and in comparison with

1940 by 18 per cent., while the production of steel per square metre of area of open hearth furnaces increased in comparison with 1948 by 11 per cent., and in comparison with 1940 by 24 per cent.

At enterprises of the Ministry of the Oil Industry rate of drilling of oil wells increased in comparison with 1948 by 5 per cent., and in comparison with 1940 by 33 per cent. In comparison with 1940, the percentage of distillation of light oil products from crude oils increased in 1949.

The utilisation of equipment of the main branches of the Chemical Industry increased. The plan for the utilisation of productive capacities in the cement and glass factories of the Ministry of Building Materials Industries of the U.S.S.R. was exceeded. An improvement was effected in the utilisation of raw materials in the cotton, woollen and linen industries of the Ministry of Light Industries of the U.S.S.R.

At the same time, in some branches of industry, particularly in the timber and cotton industries, while there was an improvement in the utilisation of equipment in comparison with last year, the level set by the plan for 1949 for the utilisation of equipment was not reached. There are still considerable amounts of equipment capacities and production areas in the engineering industry not being utilised.

The consumption of raw materials, other materials, fuel and electric energy per unit of output in 1949 in many branches of industry was reduced both in comparison with 1948 and in comparison with the planned level.

As a result of the growth of production and improved quality of work of industry, the Government in the course of the year increased the tasks set for reducing costs of industrial production. The increased plan for the reduction of costs was exceeded. In 1949 the cost of industrial production, in comparable prices, was reduced in comparison with 1948 by 7.3 per cent. The workers in industry in 1949 achieved high results in releasing turnover capital.

In 1949 improvement in quality and variety of industrial production continued. There was greater variety of cloth, knitted goods and ready-made clothing, footwear and food products. However, there are still instances where individual enterprises of the light, food and local industries and industrial co-operatives are not fulfilling the State plan for variety and quality of industrial production.

3. Introduction of New Technique in National Economy

IN 1949 in accordance with the Plan, outstanding successes were achieved in all branches of the national economy in the introduction and development of new technique and the mechanisation of heavy and labour-consuming jobs.

Considerable work has been carried out to mechanise heavy and labour consuming jobs in industry building and in transport—particularly in the coal industry, in the hewing and cutting, loading and hauling of coal in the mines; in the ore-mining industry—in the drilling and hauling of ferrous and non-ferrous ores; in the building industry—in the mechanisation of labour in earth and concrete works; in the timber industry—in the mechanisation of the hauling of timber. Mechanisation of loading and unloading increased on the railways and in water transport.

To ensure the further technical progress of the key branches of national economy in 1949, the country's industry created and put into serial production more than 300 most important new designs of highly productive machines and mechanisms. For the mechanisation of the most arduous and heavy jobs in the coal industry, new coal combines were produced, drilling and coal-loading machines and powerful scraper-conveyors were perfected; for the mechanisation of earth works in building and open cast mining, more productive trenching, single-bucket and multi-bucket excavators and powerful scrapers; for agriculture, various new types of harvesting machines, including potato-harvesting and beet-harvesting combines, combines for the harvesting of sunflower seed, flax-combines, cotton and maize-harvesting machines; for loading and unloading work, various types of improved elevating-transport equipment, including new types of cranes, automatic loaders, and piling and stacking machines.

The machine-tool industry has mastered and produced highly-productive new models of metal lathes, forge-presses, instruments and abrasives, including universal tooth-milling, semi-automatics, vertical and horizontal high-speed milling machines; and large quantities of new types of aggregate machine-tools. For light industry improved automatic looms, high-speed roving, spinning and warping machines were produced. Highly productive new equipment was also produced for the food industry. The production was mastered of new types of mechanical, optical and electrical control-regulating apparatus for the automatisation of production and for scientific research work.

During 1949 the introduction and development of highly-productive new technological processes was continued.

In the metallurgical industry new technological processes were employed in the production of pig-iron and steel. The production of new kinds of sheet metal was mastered. In the non-ferrous metallurgical industry new methods were employed for the treatment of ores, which made the extraction of non-ferrous metals more complete. The production of new varieties of hard and heat-resisting alloys was mastered, as well as non-ferrous.

In the oil industry, rotary drilling and high-speed sinking of wells were widely employed, and new and more efficient methods of opening up and exploiting oil strata were developed.

In the engineering industry advanced methods of mechanical treatment of metal received further extensive application; high-speed cutting, treatment of parts and units by the even-flow method, electric-spark and anode-mechanical treatment of parts and instruments. The smelting of non-ferrous and ferrous metals by advanced methods of casting was increased by rotary and pressure-casting.

In 1949 work was carried out for further automatisation of productive processes in the iron and steel industry and the chemical industry, at electric power stations, in engineering, and in the food and light industries.

In railway transport the employment of electrical and diesel haulage of trains increased and there was also an increase in the number of powerful, improved steam locomotives of the latest designs. New systems of signalling and automatisation, automatic blocking and auto-stops and automatic signalling are being introduced.

In 1949 there was an increase in the number of inventions and rationalisation proposals, put forward by the workers and engineering-technical personnel of the plants with the object of further improving and fundamentally perfecting the processes of production in all branches of the national economy. The number of inventions and rationalisation proposals put into operation in 1949 in the industrial enterprises alone exceeded 450,000.

Side by side with the successes achieved in 1949 in the development and introduction of new technique, there was a lag in the fulfilment of the tasks set for the complex mechanisation of coal mines, for the complex mechanisation of building jobs and for the mechanisation of lumbering, and also in the introduction of certain new varieties of equipment.

4. Agriculture

THE gross output of agriculture as a whole in 1949 exceeded the level of the pre-war year of 1940. According to data of the Chief State Inspectorate for Determination of Harvest Yields under the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers, the gross harvest of grain and industrial crops in 1949 was greater than in 1948. The gross harvest of grain crops amounted to 7,600 million poods, exceeding the level of the pre-war year of 1940, and practically reached the amounts set for the Five-Year Plan for 1950. The gross harvest of cotton, flax, sunflower seed and potatoes likewise greatly exceeded the harvest of 1940. The sown area for all crops in the harvest of 1949 was 6 million hectares more than in 1948.

The State Plan for winter sowing for the 1950 harvest was fulfilled. Autumn ploughing for the 1950 harvest was carried out to the extent of 8.3 million hectares more than for the 1949 harvest.

The growth of Socialist industry made it possible in 1949 considerably to increase the technical equipment for agriculture. Agriculture received 150,000 tractors in terms of 15 h.p. tractors, 29,000 combines, of which 12,000 were self-propelled, 64,000 lorries and more than 1,600,000 trailer-implements and other agricultural machinery. Altogether in 1949, agriculture received three to four times more tractors, lorries and agricultural machinery than in the pre-war year of 1940.

The further increase in the technical equipment of agriculture made it possible in 1949 to raise the efficiency of Socialist agriculture and raise the level of mechanisation in agricultural work. The machine and tractor stations in 1949 carried out 21% more agricultural work on the collective farms than in 1948 and 19% more than in the pre-war year of 1940. The average work performed by one 15 h.p. tractor in 1949 was 17% more than in 1940. The average work performed per combine was 18% more than in 1948 and exceeded the 1940 figure.

With great enthusiasm the collective farm peasantry and workers in the State farms in 1949 carried out the decision of the Party and the Government regarding the three-year plan for the development of Socialised collective-farm and State-farm livestock breeding for 1949-51. In 1949 approximately 120,000 collective farm cattle departments, sheep departments, pig departments and poultry departments were newly organised. The head of Socialised livestock in the collective farms during 1949, accord-

ing to preliminary data, increased as follows: cattle 21%, including sows 27%, pigs 78%, sheep and goats 19%, horses 22%. The head of poultry was doubled. The head of livestock in the State farms of the U.S.S.R. Ministry of State Farms increased in 1949 as follows: cattle by 13%, pigs 46%, sheep and goats 12% and horses 13%.

There was also an increase in the head of livestock owned individually by the collective farmers, workers and employees.

In 1949 the head of socially-owned productive livestock in the collective farms was greater than in the pre-war year of 1940: cattle by 27%, sheep and goats by 44%, and pigs by 16%.

Great successes were achieved in improving the pedigree livestock. As a result of the implementation of measures of the Party and Government for the development of pedigree breeding the number of highly-productive pedigree livestock considerably increased. In the collective farms by the end of 1949 highly-productive pedigree livestock comprised more than one-third of the cattle and more than half of all the pigs and sheep. In the State farms highly-productive pedigree livestock comprised nearly three-quarters of the total head of cattle and pigs and more than four-fifths of all sheep.

The Plan adopted by the Party and the Government for shelterbelt tree planting, the introduction of ley crop rotation and the construction of ponds and water reservoirs to ensure high and stable harvests in the steppe and forest-steppe areas of the European part of the U.S.S.R., is being successfully carried out. Altogether an area of 590,000 hectares has been planted with shelterbelt trees. Of this area, more than 370,000 hectares were planted in 1949. The collective and State farms exceeded the tree-planting plan for 1949 nearly two-fold. An area of 800,000 hectares of land has been prepared for future forest planting.

5. Growth of Railway, Water and Road Transport

IN 1949 the freight turnover for all forms of transport increased considerably by comparison with 1948. The freight turnover on the railways in 1949 was 17% more than in 1948, and was considerably in excess of the pre-war 1940 level. The general plan for average daily loadings in 1949 was fulfilled by the railways to 103%. The average daily loading for all freights in 1949 was 16% more than in 1948 including the loading of coal, which

increased by 11%, coke 17%, oil and oil products 21%, ore 22%, ferrous metals 20%, sugar 29%, mineral building materials 26%, timber freights 24%, and cut wood 20%.

The indices of utilisation of rolling-stock—turn-round of trucks, commercial speed, and standstill of trucks during single loading operations—improved in 1949 as compared with 1948, but did not reach the levels set by the Plan. The consumption of fuel per ton-kilometre on the railways in 1949 was 9% less than in 1948.

The plan of cargo transport by river in 1949 has been fulfilled to 102%. The plan of cargo turnover was also over-fulfilled. The transport plan for oil and oil-products, coal, metal, chemical cargoes, salt, mineral building materials and timber cargoes in vessels was over-fulfilled. The plan for timber-rafting and for ore and cement freightage was not fulfilled.

Cargo carriage and cargo turnover of river transport in 1949 was 21% more than in 1948. Cargo turnover of river transport in 1949 exceeded the 1940 level.

The plan of cargo transport by sea in 1949 was fulfilled. The annual plan of cargo turnover by sea transport was not fulfilled. The merchant marine transport of cargoes in 1949 was 15% more than in 1948. The cargo turnover of the Merchant Marine considerably surpassed the pre-war 1940 level.

The freight turnover of road transport in 1949 increased by 28% compared with 1948, and was almost double the level of the pre-war year of 1940. Motor transport has considerable reserves for an increase of freight turnover, however, since the lorries are not sufficiently used by many automobile units.

6. Growth of Capital Construction in National Economy

THE volume of all capital construction in the national economy in 1949 amounted to 120% as compared with 1948 including: coal and oil industry 122%, metallurgical industry 118%, power stations 139%, engineering 110%, building materials industry 112%, food industry 121%, machine and tractor stations and State farms 154%, transport 132%, house construction 126%.

In 1949 considerable construction capacities were brought into operation in all spheres of the national economy. In 1946 to 1949 a total of 5,200 State industrial enterprises were built, restored and put into operation, not counting small State and co-operative enterprises.

Large-scale building, based on advanced technology and constancy of building cadres, continued to develop.

The Ministry of Construction of Engineering Enterprises and Contractual Building Organisations of the Ministry of the Coal Industry considerably increased the volume of contractual building-assembly works as compared with 1948 and fulfilled the plan for 1949 for the volume of contractual works. However, the plan was not completely fulfilled for the putting into operation of industrial capacities.

The Ministry of Construction of Heavy Industrial Enterprises and Contractual Building Organisations of the Ministry of Railways and Ministry of the Oil Industry, although they increased the volume of contractual building-assembly works as compared with 1948, did not fulfil the annual plan.

As a result of the application of industrial methods in building, the equipment of construction jobs with large quantities of building machinery and mechanisms, and an improvement in the supply of materials to capital building works, shorter periods are being required for the erection of industrial and civilian buildings and constructions. At the same time there are big possibilities at building jobs of further accelerating construction, improving the utilisation of machines and saving of building materials.

7. Development of Trade Turnover

IN 1949 the development of Soviet trade continued. On the basis of the constant growth of the national economy of the U.S.S.R., the growth in the production of consumer goods, and new achievements in reducing the costs of industrial production. the Government carried out the second cut in prices since the abolition of the rationing system. This cut in prices was completed by March 1, 1949, and led to a further increase in the sale of goods to the population. During 1949 goods sold to the population (in comparable prices) were 20% more than in 1948. The sale of food products increased by 17% and of manufactured goods by 25%.

The sale of the following goods especially increased: Sausage products 37%, macaroni products 30%, confectionery products 22%, fruit 21%, woollen fabrics 67%, silk fabrics 50%, ready-

made clothes 29%, leather footwear 29%, rubber footwear 31%, household soap 41%, furniture 38%, watches and clocks 100%, gramophones over 50%, radio receivers 50%, bicycles 38%, and motor-cycles 35%.

In 1949 more animal and vegetable fats, sugar, meat, fish, macaroni products, woollen, silk and cotton fabrics, footwear, and many other food and industrial goods were sold to the population than in the pre-war year of 1940.

The sale to the population of agricultural products at collective farm markets, particulary meat, milk, butter, eggs and fruit, was considerably above that of 1948 and as a whole considerably exceeded the pre-war level. Prices on collective farm markets continued to fall in 1949.

8. Increase in Number of Manual and Office Workers and Growth of Productivity of Labour

THE number of manual and office workers in the national economy of the U.S.S.R. increased in 1949 in comparison with 1948 by 1.8 million persons, thus surpassing the pre-war level of 1940 by 15%. In industry, agriculture, forestry, building and transport the number of manual and office workers increased by 1,400,000 persons, and in educational, research and medical institutions by 250,000 persons.

In 1949, as in previous years, there was no unemployment in the country. Most branches of industry fulfilled the 1949 assignments established by the State plan on raising labour productivity. The labour productivity of manual workers engaged in industry in 1949 was 13% above that of 1948, including: in engineering 15%, metallurgical industry 14%, and the coal industry 12%.

In 1949 a total of 723,000 young skilled workers graduated from vocational and railway schools and factory schools and began work in industry, building and transport. Individual and brigade study and education courses in 1949 trained new qualified cadres and raised the qualifications of cadres in production, to a total of 6,600,000 persons.

9. Cultural Construction, Health Protection and Town Improvement

IN 1949 the Soviet people achieved considerable successes in all spheres of Socialist culture. At the end of the year, in primary, seven-year and secondary schools, technical schools and other special educational institutions there were over 36 million persons being educated, i.e., almost 2 million more than in 1948. The number of pupils at primary, seven-year and secondary schools in 1949 exceeded the number of pupils established for 1950 for these schools by the Law on the Five-Year Plan.

In 1949, 864 higher educational institutions were functioning. The number of students in higher educational institutions, including the number of correspondence students, reached 1,128,000 persons, or 316,000 more than pre-war. The number of students in technical and other secondary special educational institutions, including correspondence students, amounted to 1,308,000, or 333,000 more than pre-war.

The total number of specialists who graduated from higher educational establishments and technical schools and were engaged in the national economy in 1949 increased as compared with 1948, and was 68% higher than during the pre-war year of 1940. The number of research institutions in 1949 was 50% higher than in 1940, and the number of scientific workers in them almost 100% higher.

In 1949 hospitals were newly built or expanded by 38,000 beds, and the number of maternity beds in hospitals and maternity homes considerably increased. The number of doctors in 1949 was 26,000 more than in 1948. The number of rural medical centres and rural midwifery stations in the villages increased. In 1949 hospitals received large amounts of new medical equipment and complex apparatus.

State enterprises, institutions and local Soviets, as well as the population, with the help of State credits in 1946-49 built or restored a total housing area of over 72 million square metres. In addition, in rural areas 2.3 million dwelling houses were built or restored in the four years.

In 1949 large scale works were carried out on the restoration and construction of municipal enterprises and the provision of amenities in towns and workers' settlements. Altogether during 1946-1949 there were restored or newly built 185 water-supply systems in towns and workers' settlements, and tramway and trolley-bus lines were installed in 27 towns. Considerable work

was carried out in providing a gas supply for flats, paving and asphalt in urban streets and squares, and laying out parks, boulevards and squares.

10. Growth of National Income and Income of the Population

THE national income of the U.S.S.R. in comparable prices was 17% more in 1949 than in 1948, and 36% higher than in the pre-war year of 1940. The growth of national income made it possible greatly to improve the living conditions of the workers and peasants and intelligentsia, and to secure a further expansion of Socialist production in town and countryside.

The improvement of the living conditions of the population of the U.S.S.R. was expressed in a rise of the wages of workers and office employees, and in an increase in the income of peasants both from the Socialised collective farm economy and from their individually-owned allotments and farmyards.

As a result of the two-fold cut in prices of consumer goods, the real wages of workers and office employees considerably increased and the expenditure by peasants in buying industrial goods was lowered.

In addition, the population in 1949, as in previous years, received at State expense grants and payments under the social insurance system for factory and office workers, social security, pensions and accommodation at sanatoria, rest homes and juvenile institutions free of charge or at privileged rates, grants to mothers of large families and unmarried mothers, free medical aid, free training to improve skill, grants for students, and a number of other payments and privileges.

Moreover, all workers and office workers received at least a fortnight's holiday with pay at the State's expense, while workers of many professions got still longer holidays. In 1949 these payments and privileges which the population received at the expense of the State amounted to over 110,000 million rubles, i.e., almost three times as much as in 1940.

The incomes of workers and office employees per capita in 1949 were 12% higher in comparable prices than in 1948, and 24% higher than in 1940.

The incomes of peasants per capita (in comparable prices) were 14% higher in 1949 than in 1948, and over 30% higher than in 1940.

Central Statistical Administration of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers

TWO WORLDS—TWO LINES OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

"New Times" Editorial

THE Report of the Central Statistical Board of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. on the results of the fulfilment of the State plan for 1949 furnishes fresh documentary evidence of the immense power of the Soviet socialist system and of its boundless and manifest superiority over capitalism. The language of facts is the most convincing of all languages. And what do the facts and figures in the Central Statistical Board's report show?

First of all, they show once more that the Soviet Union's State plans of national economic development, which envisage a very high rate of economic advance—a rate unheard of in the capitalist world—possess tremendous effectivity. The year 1949 is especially indicative in this respect. For in 1949 the Soviet Government, by carrying out a number of measures to further improve the operation of industry, was able to increase the original industrial output plan for the year. And this increased plan was fulfilled by industry generally 103 per cent. This means that the Land of Soviets received from its industry over and above the plan substantial quantities of industrial products ranging from metals, coal, oil, machine tools, automobiles and other types of machinery to meat, butter, sugar, tea, fabrics, footwear, cameras and numerous other general consumer goods.

The results of 1949 also show that planned Soviet economy is consistently developing according to the laws of extended socialist reproduction. From quarter to quarter, from year to year there is a marked increase in the output of our industry and agriculture, and in the volume of transport operations and of capital construction work in the national economy. This was the case before the war; it was the case in the previous years of the post-war Five-Year Plan, and it was the case in 1949 too.

The gross output of Soviet industry in 1949 registered a 20 per cent. increase over 1948, and a 41 per cent. increase over the pre-war year of 1940. By the close of 1949, industrial output had already surpassed the level fixed by the Five-Year Plan for 1950.

Gross agricultural output was higher in 1949 than in the pre-war year of 1940. The harvest of cereal crops totalled 7,600 million

poods, exceeding the crop of 1940 and almost attaining the figure envisaged in the Five-Year Plan for 1950. The number of commonly-owned livestock in the collective farms increased greatly (cows 27 per cent., pigs 78 per cent., etc.) and was considerably above the figure for the pre-war year of 1940.

Freight carriage by all forms of transport in 1949 was from 15 to 28 per cent. more than in the previous year and considerably more than in 1940.

A 20 per cent. increase was registered in 1949 in the volume of capital construction work in the national economy. In the four post-war years (1946-1949), 5,200 state industrial plants were built or restored and put into operation, apart from small state and co-operative enterprises.

Even these few figures provide a clear idea of the imposing achievements of the Soviet Union's socialist economy and of the momentum of its forward movement. But the figures for 1949 demonstrate also the scope of technical progress characteristic of all branches of the Soviet economy without exception. Suffice it to point out that in 1949 alone, Soviet industry designed and put into mass production more than 300 important new types of highly productive machines and appliances. The introduction and development of new advanced methods of work is a truly nationwide endeavour in the Soviet Union. This is sufficiently indicated by the fact that in 1949 over 450,000 new inventions and improvements suggested by workers, engineers and technicians were introduced in industry.

Further, the results of 1949 show that in the Soviet Union constant and far-reaching technical progress is a feature not only of industry and transport, but of agriculture as well. The mechanical equipment of agriculture is rapidly increasing, side by side with the growth of socialist industry. In the early twenties, V. I. Lenin spoke of the time when the Soviet Government would be able to equip the nation's agriculture with 100,000 tractors. And now, in the one year of 1949 the Soviet State was able to supply agriculture with 150,000 tractors, 29,000 harvester-combines, 64,000 motor trucks and more than 1,600,000 tractor-drawn implements and other farm machines.

Lastly, the results of 1949 are fresh proof that in the Soviet Socialist State the development of the productive forces, the expansion of industrial and agricultural output, the growth of the national income at one and the same time mean increased incomes for the population, higher standards of welfare for the people as a whole and for every Soviet family, for every individual

working man and woman. The steady rise of the material and cultural standards of the people is a law of development of socialist society. The results of 1949 demonstrate the rapid growth of the national income of the Soviet Union: it increased by 17 per cent. over 1948 and was 36 per cent. greater than in the pre-war year of 1940. This growth of the national income was accompanied by a very considerable increase in the incomes of the population. Computed in comparable prices, the average income of the factory and office worker was 12 per cent. greater than in 1948, and the average income of the peasant 14 per cent. greater. Compared with 1940, the increase was 24 and 30 per cent. respectively.

The material benefits of Socialism, which are tangibly felt by the entire population of the Soviet Union, are great and manifold. They are not confined to rises in the pay of industrial and office workers and to larger incomes of the peasants both from collective farming and from their household plots and personal husbandry. Allowances and grants from social insurance funds for industrial and office workers, paid vacations, pensions from the social maintenance fund, rest homes and sanatoria free of charge, free medical service, and many other payments and privileges received from the State—all these are among the splendid features of the Soviet system. In 1949 alone, these payments and privileges received by our population amounted in value to over 110,000 million rubles—nearly three times as much as in 1940.

Numerous other facts and figures testify to the improved welfare of the people. In 1949 the population purchased 17 per cent. more foodstuffs and 25 per cent. more manufactures than in 1948.

The number of industrial and office workers in the U.S.S.R. increased in 1949 by 1,800,000. During the year, 723,000 young people graduated as skilled workers from trade, railway and factory schools and were given jobs in industry, building and transport.

Many more facts and figures could be cited to illustrate the steady rise of material and cultural standards in 1949. This found expression in the tremendous development of housing construction, in the building of new schools, hospitals and public utilities in town and country. It found expression in the fact that the student body of our schools and intermediate vocational schools increased during the year by nearly 2,000,000, while the number of students in higher educational establishments reached 1,128,000; it found expression in the tremendous expansion of scientific research institutions, and in many other developments.

Such are the principal indexes of the development of the Soviet Union's socialist economy, of its successes and achievements in 1949. Small wonder that the capitalist monopoly-owned press is endeavouring to hush up these magnificent results. A mere comparison of the economic indexes of the Soviet Union with those of any capitalist country, the U.S.A. and Britain included, is in itself a harsh indictment of the capitalist system. A comparison of these indexes for 1949 provides fresh forceful corroboration of Stalin's profound conclusion that

"the capitalist system of economy is bankrupt and unstable; that it has become obsolete and must give way to another, a higher, Soviet, socialist system of economy; that the only system of economy that has no fear of crisis and is able to overcome the difficulties which capitalism cannot solve— is the Soviet system of economy."

Indeed, what has even the richest, capitalist state, the United States of America, to show today as against the economic achievements of the Soviet Union?

A 22 per cent. drop in production in the 12 months ending October, 1949;

a drop in capital investments in 1949 which, even according to the official White House annual economic report, amounted to 15 per cent. in industry and 27 per cent. in motor and water transport;

lower wages and lower incomes for the people—on the admission of the same report, they are declining from quarter to quarter; in particular, farmers' gross incomes fell off by $2,800 million, and the drop in their net incomes was even sharper;

a big decline in savings accounts—$3,100 million in a single year.

And it is the same with practically every economic index—decline, contraction, drop, decay. True, some indexes do show an increase, but these are the indexes referring to unemployment, the national debt, armaments expenditure and monopoly super-profits. The number of totally unemployed in the United States increased 64 per cent. in one year, even according to official returns. America's national debt went up by $5,400 million. Open government expenditure on armaments building and on financing America's aggressive foreign policy increased by nearly $3,000 million compared with 1948, which was a record year in this respect. The impoverishment of the masses went hand in hand with bigger monopoly profits, particularly in the

case of the top monopolies manufacturing weapons for war and for the annihilation of human beings. Corporation profits rose by 35-50 per cent.

The picture of economic decline in Britain, France and other capitalist countries is equally striking, and the poverty of the people in most of them is even more appalling. Here are two indications of the disastrous position in these countries.

Firstly, the capitalist states of Western Europe have for the last 20 years been marking time unable to exceed the 1929 level of industrial production. The Soviet Union, on the other hand, has in these 20 years—which include the years of the most terrible war in its history—multiplied its industrial output ninefold.

Secondly, in the Soviet Union unemployment has been eliminated, never to return. The report on the results of Soviet economic development for 1949 speaks of the matter in a single laconic sentence, registering a fact that under socialist conditions is taken for granted: "As in previous years, there was no unemployment in the country in 1949." At the same time, in the capitalist countries the number of totally or partially unemployed has topped the 40,000,000 mark.

Forty million unemployed and semi-unemployed! Forty million tragedies of poverty, undernourishment and starvation for men and women, children and old people.

Such is the present state of the bourgeois world, which is drifting into a new cruel economic crisis, one that cannot be mitigated, let alone averted, by any plans or cures that the medicine men of capitalism may suggest. Its outlook is even more disastrous, for capitalism has no future. The future, a bright future for the whole world, belongs to Socialism, as does the present in the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies of Europe and Asia, which have already taken their stand under the banner of Lenin and Stalin.

That is the conclusion that follows inevitably from a scientific analysis of the history of the past century; and the same conclusion emerges from a comparison of the two lines of economic development, that of the world of Socialism and the world of capitalism.

SOVIET PEOPLE—MASTER BUILDERS OF THE NEW SOCIETY

By Nikolai Virta

The author of the following article is a well-known Soviet writer who won four Stalin Prizes for his works. Best known are his novel "Solitude," *plays* "The Soil," "Our Daily Bread," *and* "Plot of the Doomed," *and the scenario for the film* "Battle of Stalingrad."

I HAVE read a summary of the fulfilment of the national economic plan of the U.S.S.R. for 1949 in the Soviet newspapers. The statement of the Central Statistical Administration of the U.S.S.R. not only tells the Soviet people and the world at large what we have done but also makes each one of us proud of what we have achieved.

The statement of the Central Statistical Administration better than any work of art, better than any speech by an orator convinces one of the unparalleled progress of the Soviet Union, of the steady growth of its might.

In the course of the four post-war years the Soviet Union has healed in the main the horrible wounds inflicted by the most devastating of all wars. And these wounds were so deep that it seemed as though decades would pass before we could restore life to normal in the country. But the strength of the people, their unity, their enthusiasm and the organising force of the Communist Party and the Soviet State proved immeasurably greater than all the obstacles which faced us at the beginning of the Stalin post-war Five-Year Plan. Today the Soviet Union has not only restored its economy damaged by the war but has left far behind the pre-war level of output.

The secret of this success lies in the Socialist system of economy, in the incomparable advantages of this system over any other.

Here is one line from the eighth section of the Statistical Administration's statement: "In 1949, as in previous years, there was no unemployment in the country."

These few words better than volumes prove the triumph of the planned Socialist system of economy.

Ill-wishers and slanderers may lie all they want, invent all

kinds of fables about our system, but to all their vicious fabrications we can reply with pride: in our country everyone has work, all earn a livelihood, all have food, clothing, shelter, all are provided for. The growing population of the Soviet Union always finds application for its labour. This is shown by the increase in the number of factory and office workers engaged in different branches of the national economy. In the past year the number of employees increased by 1,800,000 in our country. Among them are 250,000 new intellectuals who found employment in educational, scientific-research and health institutions.

Care for man, for his material well-being, health, his cultural advancement is the main distinctive feature of the Socialist system. In 1949 the number of students in Soviet higher educational establishments increased by 316,000 compared with the pre-war year 1940, the number of scientific research institutes increased by half and the number of scientists engaged in them, twice over. More than 36 million children attend elementary and secondary schools, i.e., two million more than in 1948. In one year our country received 26,000 physicians, the number of hospitals and other medical institutions rose.

The people receive huge funds from the Socialist treasury in the form of social insurance benefits, accommodation at health resorts and sanatoriums free of charge or at reduced rates, grants to mothers of large families and unmarried mothers, free education of children, free facilities for raising skill, stipends to students, paid vacations to all factory and office workers at the expense of the State and a number of other benefits. More than 110,000 million rubles were spent by the State for these noble aims in 1949, i.e., almost three times as much as in 1940.

It is natural that I, as a writer, one engaged in the sphere of culture should dwell first and foremost on the figures in the statement of the Central Statistical Administration describing cultural progress in the U.S.S.R. But the advance in the culture of the people is directly reflected also in the achievements in social production. And these achievements of the Soviet Union are as great as the country's cultural progress.

Mobilising internal resources and relying on the lofty consciousness of the working class, peasantry and intellectuals, the Soviet Government raised the original national economic plan for 1949. And it was not mistaken: the people exceeded this enlarged plan as well. Last year industrial output increased 20 per cent. compared with 1948 and 41 per cent., compared with 1940.

Or take Socialist agriculture. How immeasurably it has risen

compared to the old, petty individual peasant farming! I still remember the narrow strips of land and the bent figures of the peasants as they walked behind the wooden plough. All their horrible toil, all their efforts were frequently in vain, because exploitation held them all in its grip, because they were in the power of ruthless elements and the fields often did not return even the seeds the peasants planted.

Today the Soviet land is covered by the vast expanses of the collective farm fields, undivided by boundaries. The place of primitive implements has been taken by the finest modern machines. Their number increased especially last year: in the course of it Soviet agriculture received 150,000 tractors (in terms of 15 h.p. units), 29,000 combines, of which 12,000 are self-propelled, 64,000 trucks and more than 1,600,000 diverse farm machines and tractor-drawn implements, i.e., 3-4 times more than in 1940. Vast artificial water reservoirs and shelter belts bar the way to scorching winds, they eliminate the danger of drought and increase the fertility of the fields. In 1949 the Soviet Union gathered a grain harvest of 7,600 million poods, exceeding the pre-war crops.

I will touch on figures pertaining to consumption, because they graphically indicate the benefits derived by the Soviet people as a result of their labour. During the past year the sale of goods to the population increased 20 per cent. compared with 1948. This means that the Soviet people lived last year still better than formerly. But this also means that in the coming years their life will further improve constantly. For the advance in the well-being of the people is the law of Socialism.

The rise in the living standards of the masses in the Soviet Union is facilitated not only by an increase in output and growth of earnings of the working people but also by the systematic reduction in the prices of consumer goods which is being effected by the Soviet State from year to year. The Soviet State twice reduced prices for all goods and the population saved as a result tens of billions of rubles.

Yes, the achievements are great but they do not dazzle Soviet people. They only show what can be achieved by the Socialist system. Relying on the advantages of this system, the Soviet people will continue marching forward to the full victory of Communism.

We, Soviet writers, are proud of the fact that we describe the grandeur of Communist construction in the U.S.S.R. and portray Soviet people, the master-builders of the new society.

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